

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 4-9 have been added. No new matter has been added.

This amendment adds and changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-9 are now pending in this application.

Drawings

The Office Action indicated that Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as -- Prior Art--. In response, Figure 1 has been amended to include the label "PRIOR ART".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,911,318 to Spero et al. ("Spero"). Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,939,424 to Kieser et al. ("Kieser"). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spero in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,245,190 to Masuda et al. ("Masuda"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Spero fails to disclose either the grid assembly or reflective member as those features are recited in claim 1. The Office Action equates the copper mesh screen 25 of Spero with the grid assembly of claim 1. The copper mesh screen 25, however, does not have a plurality of ion paths, nor is it arranged to receive ions from the plasma tube 22 (equated with the claimed plasma chamber) as claimed. The copper mesh screen 25 is arranged to prevent microwave radiation leakage (col. 9, lines 27-32), not to receive any ions from the plasma tube 22. The Office Action also equates the reflector 60 of Spiro with the reflective member as claimed. The reflector 60 of Spiro, however, is not arranged to receive and neutralize any

ions directed by the copper mesh screen 25 (equated with the grid assembly as claimed). The reflector 60 is arranged merely to reflect radiation (col. 11, lines 57-60).

Masuda fails to cure the deficiencies of Spiro even if there were motivation to combine these references, which there is not. Spiro discloses his apparatus to be for generating high electromagnetic radiation in the ultraviolet and visible regions (abstract). On the other hand, Masuda discloses a plasma processing system for forming fine patterns for semiconductor manufacturing (see col. 1, lines 5-10). One skilled in the art would not have looked to Masuda, disclosing only magnetic fields appropriate for a plasma processing system that generates ions for forming fine patterns for semiconductor manufacturing, for an appropriate magnetic field for the apparatus of Spiro, which is for producing UV and visible electromagnetic radiation.

Kieser fails to disclose or suggest the reflective member as that feature is recited in claim 1. The Office Action equates the rotatable metal reflector 10 of Kieser with the reflective member of claim 1. Kieser, however, does not disclose that the rotatable metal reflector 10 is arranged to receive and neutralize any ions directed by the lateral walls 6, 7 (equated with the grid assembly as claimed). Instead the rotatable metal reflector 10 is arranged to perform a mixing function (col. 4, lines 16-19), not to neutralize any ions from the lateral walls 6 and 7. Thus Kieser fails to disclose all the limitation of claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable thereover.

Dependent claims 2-3 (as well as new dependent claims 4 and 5) are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1, from which they ultimately depend, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

New independent claims 7 and 9 have been added, and are also believed to patentably distinguish from Spiro, Masuda and Kieser.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

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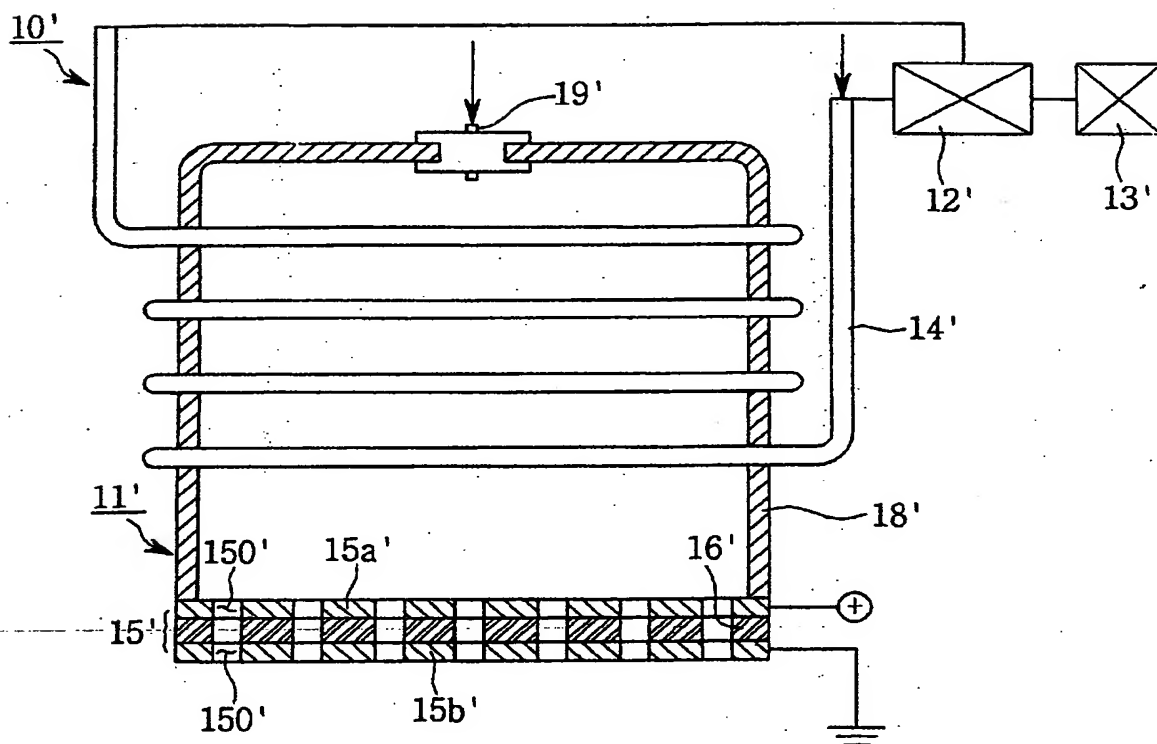
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FIG. 1



PRIOR ART